

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR AGENCY ACTION

1.1 FEDERAL ACTION

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to provide funding to assist Taos Pueblo (Taos), New Mexico, with the proposed activity of construction and installation of drought relief well. The proposed project site is identified on Map 1 (Appendix 6.2). This well would mainly serve to support community need to include fire protection, livestock, road construction, and construction during times of drought.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide funding for drought relief well for Taos Pueblo during times of drought. The project is needed to supply the pueblo with a source of additional water during times of drought for other community needs to include, fire protection, livestock watering, road construction and construction. Extreme water shortages have forced Taos to pursue federal assistance under the Reclamation Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, Public Law 102-250 and the Native American Program.

1.3 RELEVANT STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PLANS

This draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office, in compliance with all applicable Federal Statutes, Regulations, and Executive Orders, including the following:

- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470)
- Clean Water Act of 1972 and Amendments of 1977 (CWA)
- Clean Air Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, (ESA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations, 1994
- Floodplain Management (Executive Order 11988)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*)
- Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500 *et seq.*)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001 *et seq.*)
- Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (Executive Order 11593)
- Protection of Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)
- Reclamation NEPA Handbook, 2005

This draft EA also reflects compliance with all applicable State of New Mexico and local regulations, statutes, policies and standards for conserving the environment.

